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RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035
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I-073

July 28, 1997

Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Inquiry Submittal for Category III Funding

Dear Ms. Hansel:

The purpose of this letter is to present the outline of a project in the early planning stages for installing fish screens on a major lower Sacramento River diversion. We intend to perform a feasibility study over the next several months and submit a formal project proposal to you in November.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the general suitability of our project for Category III funding.

Sincerely,

James Staker
General Manager

INQUIRY SUBMITTAL

FOR POSITIVE-BARRIER FISH SCREEN

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035

Project: Reclamation District 2035 Fish Screen Project

Applicant: Reclamation District 2035, Yolo County

Project Description

Reclamation District 2035 (District) operates a water diversion and distribution system built in the 1920's to serve the 17,000 acre Conaway Ranch and other nearby land in Eastern Yolo County. Most of the water for the District is diverted from the Sacramento River near Veteran's Memorial Bridge. The diversion pump station has a normal operating capacity of slightly over 300 cfs. The District service area boundary and diversion pump station location are shown on Figure 1.

The unscreened diversion could entrain juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead trout during downstream migrations. Several runs of Chinook salmon use the lower Sacramento River as a migration corridor. Winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon populations have diminished during the last several decades, resulting in an increase in efforts to preserve and enhance the salmon populations with restoration actions that are compatible with the needs of various stakeholders. The primary biological and ecological objectives include the construction and installation of positive-barrier fish screens to preserve and enhance these salmonid populations, including fall-, late fall-, winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The installation of positive-barrier fish screens will also benefit other species of anadromous fish using the Sacramento River as a migration corridor.

Approach

The approach will be to first perform a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate fish screen alternative. The feasibility study will also provide initial environmental documentation and include a preliminary design and cost estimate. Funding for the feasibility study will be sought through the USBR/USFWS Anadromous Fish Restoration Program of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

After completion of the feasibility study, funding for design and construction will be sought through the CALFED Category III program, CVPIA, and other sources. A formal proposal will be submitted to CALFED during the next submittal period in Fall 1997. Once adequate financing is secured, the fish screen facilities design, permitting, and environmental documentation will be prepared. Depending upon funding availability, design and other documentation could be completed by mid to late 1998.

Construction would commence during the summer following the completion of design. Construction would be completed during the no impact construction season from June 15 through October 15. The construction phase would include procurement and construction of the fish screen facilities.

Project Justification

California Department of Fish and Game's *Restoring Central Valley Streams: A Plan for Action* identifies correcting fish passage problems at diversions with the installation of fish screens at diversion facilities as top priority to anadromous fish habitat restoration actions. The installation of positive-barrier fish screens to reduce losses of juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead trout has also been identified as a priority in CALFED's *Vision for Water Diversions* in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. Similarly, the USFWS Draft Anadromous Fish Restoration Program has listed the improvements to diversion facilities as a priority in the Sacramento River Basin.

Budget Cost and Third Party Impacts

Using rule-of-thumb values for fish screen costs, it is estimated that the facilities will cost roughly $2,500,000. A more accurate estimate and a detailed breakdown of costs for completion of this project will be estimated in the upcoming feasibility study. Third party impacts from the project are expected to be minimal.

Applicant Qualifications

The applicant and the contractors are well qualified to complete the project successfully. Reclamation District 2035 is a non-profit district established in accordance with state law in 1919. Conaway Ranch, the District's primary customer, is a for-profit farming organization with a strong interest in the environmental health of the Sacramento River and the surrounding area. Montgomery Watson will be the lead firm in the planning and design of the fish screen facilities. Montgomery Watson is one of the nation's leading consulting engineering firms offering specialized services in water and wastewater-related aquaculture, and the bioengineering of fish facilities. West Yost & Associates has performed water resource planning, monitoring, surveying, and other related services for the District since 1991.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation

CDFG has existing programs monitoring the river escapement of adult Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, primarily spring-run Chinook salmon. Concurrently, CDFG has ongoing programs monitoring the juvenile salmon and steelhead trout emigration in the Sacramento River. The District also intends to perform standard start-up procedures evaluating mechanical and hydraulic performance of the fish screen facilities.

Local Support and Coordination

Yolo County leaders have expressed support for the preservation of the District's diversion from the Sacramento River and for the improvement of environmental resources in and around the Sacramento River. Yolo County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District has applied for a new area of origin appropriative water right on the Sacramento River which shows Reclamation District 2035's diversion as one of their points of diversion to supply water to Davis, Woodland, and eastern Yolo County.

Summary

The benefits of a new positive-barrier fish screen at the District's diversion would contribute to the ongoing restoration actions of CALFED, CDFG, and the USFWS. The District supports these efforts and is eager to become a partner in restoring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the Sacramento River and its tributaries.

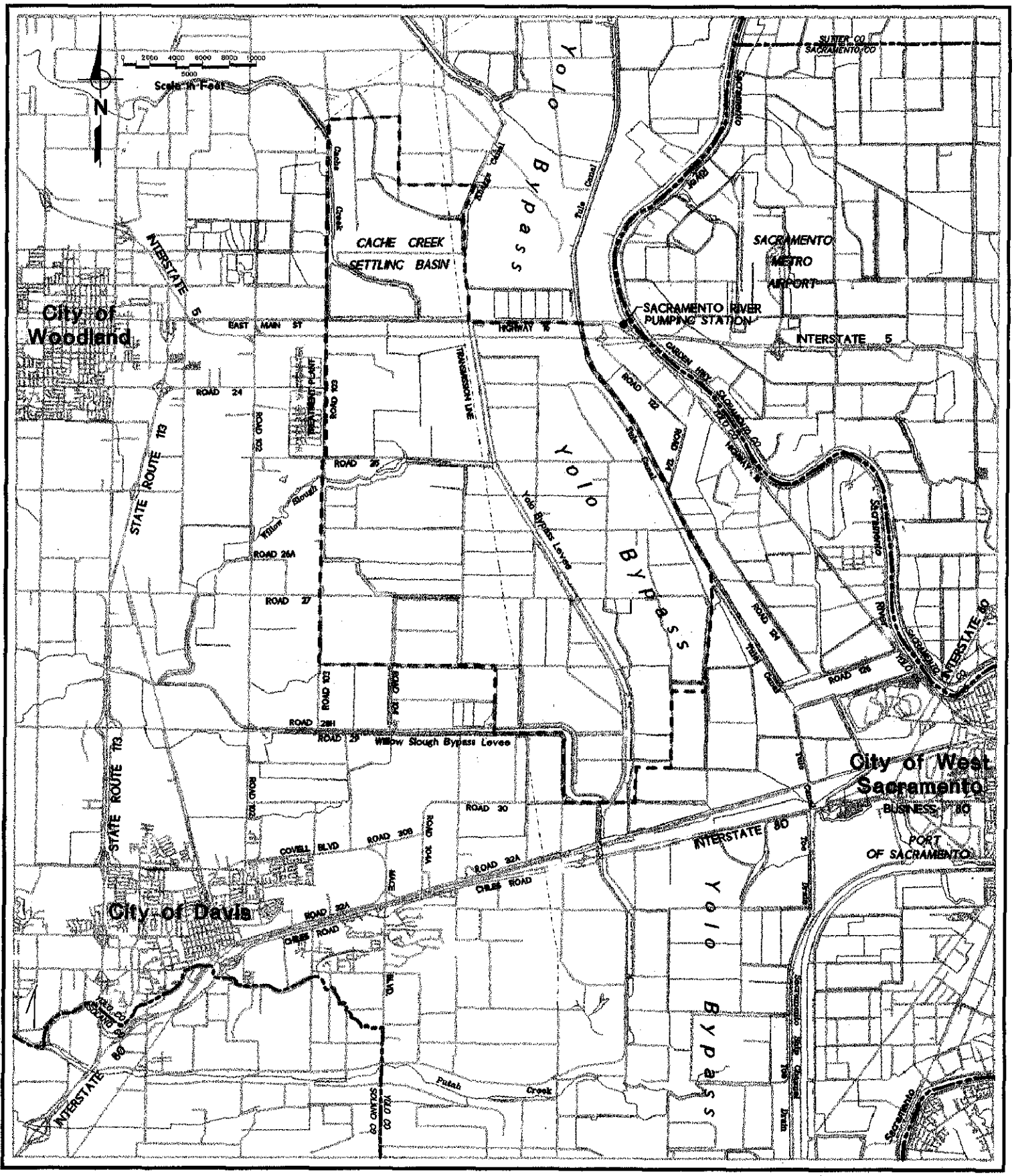

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Figure 1

Legend:

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035

COUNTY BOUNDARY

WEST YOST & ASSOCIATES

Reclamation District 2035

Location Map with Service Area Boundary

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